Brittany Biggie

AP Literature Pd. 4

“This I Believe”

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Earth Song

When I watch people playing or listening to music, I can see the magic it has over them; I witness a beautiful phenomena where music clusters people together and draws others in. I catch a spark in their eyes as they recognize a song, sing the lyrics, or hum part of the melody. It’s amazing, really. And that’s why I believe that music unites the world.

The world is torn apart by feuds and misunderstandings, but music has a funny way of bridging those gaps. Music is the common factor between us all. When people are getting to know one another, people don’t ask “Do you like music?” They ask “What’s your favorite kind of music?” because everyone loves music. Everyone has a favorite song, a favorite artist, a favorite genre--there are plenty to choose from. The common interest in music itself brings people together. It allows a topic of conversation amongst people around the world if nothing else.

Another wonderful thing about music is that it transcends the language barrier. Language, one of the many causes of separation in the world, can be completely ignored when it comes to music. A song doesn’t need words but rather a method of how the music is played to be expressed. An orchestra in Europe can record a song that listeners on the other side of the world can understand exactly what those musicians were expressing through their music. People young and old, those with and without the ability to read music, can appreciate the message being portrayed. This relationship, between musician and listener, joins two sides of the world together because they understand one another.

Music has a peculiar way of affecting people; take The Beatles, for example. Countless people around the world listen to the group even though the band no longer exists. If the songs “Hey Jude,” “I Want to Hold Your Hand,” “All You Need is Love,” or “Across the Universe” was played in a crowd in New York City, Hong Kong, or Sydney, there would most definitely be a large group that will be familiar with the song. No doubt there would be some people that would sing along. And if there was a worldwide broadcast of any one of those songs, the world would echo with the voices of every nation. Wars and borders would be forgotten as people sang the words and hummed the tune to these songs of love and peace.

Even now as I write these words, I am listening to music. No doubt there are at least a hundred people listening to the same song at this exact moment and millions more who can say they enjoy the song. I am connected to over a million people--people I do not know, people who I do not share a language or a religion with, people who live in the next country over and beyond. But this music, this wonderful song that lasts just a few minutes, has brought us all together.